United Nations A/70/794

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 March 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda items 15, 19, 116 and 134

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/247, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive proposal addressing the effective and efficient delivery by the Secretariat of mandates in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

The report provides an description of how Member States are responding to the two Agendas and the impact that the responses will have on the United Nations system. In addition, it describes the areas of activity on which the United Nations will focus its efforts in support of Member State implementation of the two Agendas, and the synergies between the Secretariat and the wider United Nations system in that regard.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 70/247, in which the Assembly requested that the Secretary-General provide a comprehensive proposal addressing the effective and efficient delivery of mandates in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development by the Secretariat, within the broader United Nations system, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions and the United Nations Development Account.

2. The entities of the Secretariat were requested to explain changes in their work programmes and provide examples of synergies within the Secretariat and the wider United Nations system. Entities of the United Nations system were also invited to provide input. Information was received from a total of 38 entities. The submissions, and subsequent consultations among the offices supporting the implementation of the two Agendas, have served as the basis for the present report.

3. The scope of the report is limited to the Secretariat, in keeping with the request of the General Assembly in resolution 70/247. In section II, the report addresses how Member States are responding to the two Agendas and the impact that the responses will have on the United Nations system. In section III, the report provides a description of the synergies between the Secretariat and the wider United Nations system. The areas of activity on which the Organization will focus its efforts to support implementation by Member States of the two Agendas are set out in section IV. The financial implications of the proposals and the actions requested of the General Assembly are set out in sections V and VI.

4. The present report is submitted in addition to the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (A/70/589).

II. Context

5. The 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda were shaped by States Members of the United Nations and agreed by their Governments in 2015. The 2030 Agenda is universal, integrated and indivisible. The full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is critical for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

6. The 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda are interdependent. Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals requires ambitious, comprehensive, holistic and transformative actions that follow up on the commitments reached in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002 and in Doha in 2008 and strengthen the means of implementation and financing for the development follow-up process. Both Agendas serve as the basis for actions to be undertaken within communities and countries, under the leadership of national Governments and with the engagement of a broad range of stakeholders.

7. Progress towards the achievement of the two Agendas would be boosted by turning the commitments set out in the Paris Agreement into ambitious action on climate change at the global, national and subnational levels. Effective management of disaster risk, as called for in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, will also be needed to ensure the sustainability of development and investments.

8. Countries will review progress through national processes that involve multiple stakeholders. They will be able to share national experiences, describe progress, outline challenges and identify emerging issues at the annual high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up. The forums provide Member States with an opportunity to demonstrate political leadership and to oversee a constellation of follow-up and review processes, facilitating guidance and recommendations for follow-up. They will not only serve to encourage the coordination of sustainable development policies, thus helping to ensure that the 2030 Agenda remains relevant and ambitious but will also foster coherence within the United Nations system. The two forums will interface with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with their mandates. There will be effective linkages with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developed countries.

9. Regional forums on sustainable development are also being considered, involving the regional commissions and regional organizations such as the European Union, the African Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, with regard to undertaking reviews within the context of existing regional strategies. The regional commissions are currently consulting with Member States to determine the modalities for regional review meetings, with a view to bringing together all relevant stakeholders in the region on a common platform.

10. Over the next 15 years, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the General Assembly and its committees, special sessions, high-level meetings and other processes, will continue to guide the United Nations system on how best to contribute to the two Agendas. The work programme of the committees and bodies will continue to evolve. The ongoing process being undertaken by the General Assembly on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level will certainly have implications for the work of the Organization. The United Nations system will also be guided by intergovernmental decisions reached at the high-level political forum on sustainable development and by the *Global Sustainable Development Report*, which will strengthen the science-policy interface and provide a strong evidence-based instrument for promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development. The respective governing bodies of various United Nations system entities will guide and monitor their activities, issuing new mandates, as necessary, with regard to the Agendas. The regional commissions will also provide specific guidance through their resolutions and decisions.

11. The two Agendas provide strategic direction to the United Nations system, and the entities within it are reprioritizing their activities and reallocating resources in order to support Member States effectively. The new emphases on universality,

integration and indivisibility are already having an impact on operational procedures and activities, and on the capabilities and expertise that will be needed. Member States are examining options within the context of the ongoing dialogue in the Economic and Social Council on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system and of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (see Council resolution 2014/14).

12. The wider United Nations system comprises funds, programmes, specialized agencies and financial institutions with their own governance processes. All of the entities are fully engaged in ensuring coherence and alignment of the United Nations system's work to support the new Agendas, notably, through the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). The Secretariat functions within this context.

13. The United Nations system and the Secretariat support Member States as they establish coherent whole-of-government policies and strategies, as well as whole-of-society approaches to implementation. The objective is effective, efficient, transparent and inclusive implementation at the local and national levels, as well as among groups of countries at the subregional and regional levels.

III. Synergies between the Secretariat and the wider United Nations system

14. Member States have asked the United Nations system to realign itself with the new Agendas. In paragraph 88 of the 2030 Agenda, they stressed the importance of system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting in order to ensure coherent and integrated support to the implementation of the new Agenda by the United Nations development system.

15. Just as the new Agendas will be transformative for Member States, it is already clear that they will also transform the United Nations system. The Organization is only in the first months of undertaking implementation of the 15-year agenda, and its strategy for supporting Member States is just taking shape and will continue to evolve as Member States develop and fine-tune their own strategies for implementing the two Agendas. Already, however, the Secretariat has taken important steps to ensure that its support with regard to the implementation of the two Agendas is provided in a united and coordinated fashion, and is coherent with the wider United Nations system. Secretariat entities have adapted priorities, aligned workplans and adjusted ways of working, guided by the needs of countries and by targets for the means of implementation.

16. The initial phase of implementation will be the most critical for the success of the two Agendas. It is the phase in which Member States will integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into their development plans and fiscal frameworks; set up the needed institutional arrangements for implementation, follow-up and review at the national level; and revamp their statistical systems so they can be used to assess progress, evaluate impact and inform policies. A high level of support from the United Nations system is already being requested, and such demands are only expected to increase in the coming months. Thus, where required, the United Nations system must have access to resources so that it can effectively support

Member States in addressing the challenges they face: the capabilities and effectiveness of the United Nations system at this time will have a significant impact on the future trajectory of the 2030 Agenda.

A. Reorienting the work of the United Nations system

17. The litmus test of the new global Agendas is the extent to which they translate into coherent policies and the comprehensive and lasting impact they have on communities across the world. In that regard, the work that the Organization undertakes at the national, subnational and regional levels must deliver on the ambitions expressed by Member States at the global level.

18. Reorientation involves recognizing the interdependence of the three pillars of the Organization's work (peace and security, development and human rights). Capacities within the development pillar must be further strengthened in order to enable people to live in peace, without violent conflict and with the full realization of their human rights. United Nations system entities working on the human rights pillar and on the peace and security pillar are increasing their ability to mainstream human rights, enhance conflict prevention and utilize peacebuilding tools within the pillars. The link between humanitarian action and development is also being emphasized.

19. Member States have identified five integrated and indivisible areas of focus that will guide action for sustainable development over the next 15 years: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. The areas cover the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. They provide high-level strategic guidance for the work of the United Nations system and can be used to identify areas in which the system as a whole — especially the Secretariat — needs to intensify efforts.

20. In addition, a number of principles are reorienting the United Nations system in its efforts to help Member States to implement the new Agendas in a manner that delivers their transformative visions. In that regard, implementation, including integration of the Sustainable Development Goals in national planning processes, must be nationally led and popularly owned and must enjoy broad participation; be universal, within all communities and countries, building on existing normative frameworks; address underlying causes of vulnerability, build resilience, combat inequality, including gender inequality, leave no one behind and enable everyone to realize their human rights; promote coherence and integrate disciplines and sectors, reflecting the many interlinkages within the Agendas; leverage innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships and expertise to achieve shared results; draw on a revolution in the availability and use of data to inform analysis and decision-making and to monitor the progress of all, individually and collectively, including with regard to the strengthening of national and regional statistics systems; and maximize the value of limited resources and support higher standards of transparency and accountability.

B. Strengthening support to the United Nations system to meet new challenges

21. The new Agendas will test the way the United Nations system provides support to Member States, especially in view of their new and transformative features, such as universality, integration and indivisibility. An adequate response to these new challenges requires an intensive effort that uses existing mechanisms effectively and that is complemented by new ones, where necessary.

Roles of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General

22. The Secretary-General provides policy direction to the departments, offices and other organizational units of the Secretariat in the performance of their functions, as well as guidance and coordination assistance to the United Nations system. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/12B, the Deputy Secretary-General is mandated to support the Secretary-General in ensuring intersectoral and inter-institutional coherence of activities and programmes and to support the Secretary-General in elevating the profile of the United Nations in the economic and social spheres, including further efforts to strengthen the United Nations as a leading centre for development policy and development assistance.

Emphasis on effectiveness, efficiency and impact

23. In order to maximize synergy and efficiency, and reduce fragmentation and overlap, the Secretary-General coordinates the actions carried out by the Secretariat to support Member States in the implementation of the two Agendas. Procedures that ensure strategic direction, priorities, reallocation of resources and the monitoring of results are being rolled out across the Secretariat. Such efforts strengthen the platform for further prioritization, taking into account additional mandates from ongoing intergovernmental processes. The increased use of these procedures promotes a culture of change with regard to how the Organization approaches its work across the three pillars.

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

24. The Secretary-General is making use of existing mechanisms for coordinating actions across the United Nations system so as to promote system-wide coherence and synergy in responses to intergovernmental mandates. CEB and its subsidiary bodies — the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group — are central to his efforts to enhance system-wide coherence and coordination.

Transparency, efficiency and accountability of individual UN system entities

25. Since the adoption of the two Agendas in 2015, the Secretary-General has encouraged entities within the United Nations system to respond fully to the ambitions of Member States. The entities are sharpening their focus, improving transparency, increasing their efficiency and strengthening their accountability. They offer services in an increasingly integrated manner, in areas where the United Nations system can add value. They are aligning their strategies with the new Agendas, and improving the quality and regularity of communication. They are

using consistent frameworks for planning, for setting out expected results and for reporting at the global, regional, national and subnational levels.

Mainstreaming acceleration and policy support strategy in countries

26. The support provided to each Member State by the United Nations country team is determined by the country's needs and by in-country capabilities. The United Nations Development Group reports that 84 Governments have already asked for United Nations country team support with regard to implementing the 2030 Agenda. In response, the Group has adopted a common approach for supporting implementation that includes the following elements: mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support. Mainstreaming refers to integrating the Agenda at the country level, engaging a range of stakeholders in its implementation and reflecting the Agenda in national plans, strategies and budgets. Acceleration entails supporting countries in efforts to identify bottlenecks to achieving sustainable development, with special attention paid to synergies and trade-offs between sectors in order to identify interventions that accelerate progress across a wider range of the Sustainable Development Goals. Policy support involves providing coordinated and pooled policy support to countries, drawing on expertise across the United Nations system, in part on the basis of extensive country networks and experience. A comprehensive reference guide on mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda has already been made available to United Nations country teams, and work is now progressing on the acceleration tools (which incorporate lessons from implementing the Millennium Development Goals).

Standard operating procedures

27. In order to improve efficiencies and the effectiveness of the different entities working together at the country level and to strengthen inter-agency collaboration, the United Nations Development Group has rolled out standard operating procedures for United Nations country teams since 2014. The Governments of 88 programme countries have expressed interest in all or some elements of the procedures. An increasing number of the 131 United Nations country teams are organized around issue-based inter-agency results groups. Forty United Nations country teams have common business operations strategies in place in order to ensure high-quality and cost-effective business services in support of programme delivery.

Leadership roles of the resident coordinators and the United Nations country teams

28. Empowered resident and humanitarian coordinators and well-functioning United Nations country teams are essential to ensuring coherent and synergized support for national authorities and in-country partners as they implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Resident coordinators and United Nations country teams need to draw on all relevant assets within the United Nations system, including non-resident agencies, so that they can integrate norms with context-specific policy advice, augment the capabilities of United Nations country team results groups, and implement frameworks on mutual accountability across United Nations system organizations. In support of a well-functioning resident coordinator system that can drive a coherent United Nations system response to the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Development Group has been implementing a

global cost-sharing arrangement since 2014, to which all member entities of the Group, including the Secretariat, are expected to contribute.

Specialized agencies and non-resident United Nations system entities

29. Given the increased demands for high-level policy support, and given the shift in many countries from project-based approaches to a more programmatic focus, countries are seeking to access the expertise of both specialized agencies and non-resident entities in an effective and systematic way.

Pooled funding

30. Pooled financing enhances offers platforms for the efficient and collaborative pursuit of common results. Multi-window joint funding platforms for providing integrated support to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals are encouraged at both the country and global levels.

A sustainable United Nations

31. The Organization must embody the integrated and indivisible nature of the Sustainable Development Goals through its own operations, from procurement to emission reductions. The United Nations system will also intensify its efforts to integrate the environmental dimension across its work programmes through the Environment Management Group and take advantage of the existing platforms for cooperation, such as the Sustainable United Nations facility.

Sustainable Development Goals action campaign

32. The Sustainable Development Goals action campaign, hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), provides an inter-agency platform by which citizens can engage directly with the roll-out, implementation and monitoring of the Goals. It will serve to gather citizen feedback, fill data gaps, promote accountability and global citizen action, undertake policy advocacy, share experiences and provide support to United Nations country teams.

IV. Building on the comparative advantages of the Secretariat

33. In both the 2030 Agenda (para. 46) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (para. 74), Member States recognized the important role and comparative advantage of an adequately resourced, relevant, coherent, efficient and effective United Nations system in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable development. The new Agendas reflect an increased demand for the provision of integrated and coordinated policy support at all levels to Member States. To that end, the Secretary-General considers that the efforts of the departments and offices of the Secretariat should be focused on supporting the following areas of activity where it enjoys a comparative advantage:

(a) Supporting the strengthening of capacity and improving policy coherence at the regional, national, subnational and local levels;

(b) Facilitating regional and international cooperation;

(c) Catalysing new partnerships and improving the effectiveness and accountability of existing partnerships at all levels;

(d) Supporting a favourable international enabling environment through intergovernmental processes;

(e) Supporting follow-up and review;

(f) Undertaking public advocacy for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Such areas of activity facilitate the provision of support to countries and communities while taking a strategic "whole-of-the-Secretariat" approach that works across the three pillars of the Charter of the United Nations and avoids duplication and fragmentation. The sections that follow summarize efforts undertaken by entities in the Secretariat in each of the areas set out in paragraph 33 above, while also highlighting synergies and collaborations with other parts of the wider United Nations system.

Supporting the strengthening of capacity and improving policy coherence at the regional, national, subnational and local levels

34. Each country has primary responsibility for advancing the Agendas within the context of its national economic and social development and for follow-up and review of the implementation of the Agendas at the national, regional and global levels. The Secretariat will continue to support national efforts to improve policy coherence, improve the effectiveness of capacity-building efforts and implement the normative agenda through institutional strengthening led by a whole-of-government approach. A new emphasis will be placed on improving effectiveness and building sustainable capacity for implementation.

35. In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Member States recognized the importance of the support provided by the United Nations development system in helping to strengthen country capacity, in particular for developing countries, especially the most vulnerable, as well as middle-income countries (paras. 39 and 71). The United Nations country teams and the regional commissions will provide that support by ensuring policy coherence at the national, regional and global levels, in line with the statement of collaboration of the regional commissions and the United Nations Development Group, signed on 1 January 2016.[1] They will support national and regional reviews of the implementation of the Goals, including with regard to strengthening statistical and data systems and evaluation bodies. Relevant Secretariat entities will also support countries in preparing the national reviews of progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Secretariat is strengthening its evidence-based policy research on integrative approaches, including the development of modelling tools and advisory policy, in order to assist countries in formulating national strategies and policies for implementing the two Agendas.

36. The Development Account has been an efficient and effective regular budget financing modality for capacity development for the economic, social and environmental entities of the Secretariat (Department of Economic and Social

[1] Available from https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Statement-of-Collaboration-RECs-UNDG-Reg-UNDGs-on-SDGs-1-Jan-2016.pdf.

Affairs, regional commissions, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). It has allowed them to translate their normative and analytical strengths into new and innovative projects jointly executed by the 10 entities in partnership with the United Nations system and other entities. For the biennium 2016-2017, the $28.4 million budget has been programmed to help Member States, including landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States, to achieve the 2030 Agenda with $12 million dedicated to addressing the most urgent initial statistical needs to enable them to monitor and report on the Sustainable Development Goals.

37. In paragraphs 18 and 19 of the 2030 Agenda, Member States emphasized that the Agenda was to be implemented in a manner that was consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law and reaffirmed the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Development Group have co-led the development of updated policy and programming guidance for United Nations country teams and the resident coordinator system. Extra capacity is needed to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Secretary-General's Rights Up Front Initiative encourages preventive efforts with regard to violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and promotes the interlinkages between peace and security, development and human rights.

38. The imperative that no one be left behind is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs supports United Nations system-wide action in the areas of youth, indigenous peoples, older persons and persons with disabilities, as well as the functional commissions and advisory bodies of the Economic and Social Council responsible for guiding international policy norms related to those social groups. Aligning work in such areas to ensure effective support for the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum on sustainable development will be critical. OHCHR and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) are co-leading United Nations system-wide efforts under CEB and the High-level Committee on Programmes to develop a system-wide "shared framework" for a strategic and integrated approach to leaving no one behind and to combating discrimination and inequalities within and among countries.

39. In his report for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (A/70/709), the Secretary-General underscores the importance of the 2030 Agenda and outlines action to reinforce and support it. Actors working on humanitarian, development, peace, security and human rights issues are encouraged to overcome institutional and sectoral divides and work more closely together. Tools to encourage such changed behaviour include improved risk analysis and multi-year planning, programming and improved financing. The Summit will provide an opportunity for all to commit to supporting the implementation of the Agenda, leaving no one behind and implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and climate action in crisis situations.

40. Natural disasters, violent conflict, related humanitarian crises and protracted displacement threaten to undermine development, reversing gains and exposing vulnerabilities. People who are at risk include those living in areas affected by long-term crises, refugees (especially women with children) and internally displaced persons. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs works with humanitarian and development partners to help to fulfil the promise of the Agenda to leave no one behind. In his report for the World Humanitarian Summit, the Secretary-General also reinforces the 2030 Agenda as the frame of reference for reaching those being left behind in those settings.

41. Member States have agreed to cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration (2030 Agenda, para. 29), while also proposing concrete measures to leverage the benefits and reduce the costs of migration (Addis Ababa Action Agenda, paras. 40 and 111). The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, together with other members of the Global Migration Group, is developing indicators to measure progress in implementing the migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda, both with regard to the conditions faced by migrants and the policy instruments needed to improve those conditions. With a view to supporting States in their efforts to promote and protect the human rights of migrants, OHCHR is developing a set of human rights indicators on access by migrants to health services, education and work. With regard to assisting States in expanding their capacity to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, to protecting the trafficking of victims and smuggled migrants and to ensuring that their rights are respected, the Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is promoting cooperation between Member States.

42. Member States have reaffirmed that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and achieving the full realization of their human rights were essential to sustainable development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda, para. 6). They have also acknowledged that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and have committed to working for a significant increase in investments to close the gender gap (2030 Agenda, para. 20).

43. Member States have invited the United Nations to assist both source and destination countries in helping to combat illicit financial flows (Addis Ababa Action Agenda, para. 24). A full spectrum of tools is available from UNODC to improve policy coherence to fight illicit financial flows, strengthen anti-money laundering frameworks and develop the capacities of national agencies to investigate money-laundering and terrorism financing, prevent and mitigate economic crimes and corruption, and support the recovery of stolen assets to improve both the rule of law and domestic resource mobilization. UNODC supports efforts by States to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions through the comprehensive implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

44. Member States have recognized that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of the planet's natural resources. The Office of Legal Affairs (Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea) plans to strengthen its assistance to States in the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular at the regional level, in collaboration with organizations of the United Nations system, among others.

45. Member States have affirmed that they will strengthen the important role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda, para. 88). To promote a whole-of-government approach, UNCTAD is catalysing work to help newly elected Governments embrace horizontal and vertical approaches to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

46. National capacities for conflict prevention are a critical factor in building peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. UNDP and the Department of Political Affairs, with support from the Peacebuilding Fund, have used a collaborative approach to support Member States in strengthening home-grown capacities in this area. Building national capacities for combatting illicit arms trafficking is also essential.

Facilitating regional and international cooperation

47. Member States have recognized the important role of regional organizations and initiatives in addressing a range of issues in the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, including hunger, climate change, illicit financial and arms flows, corruption, international tax cooperation and trade. In paragraph 130 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Member States encouraged the regional commissions, in cooperation with regional banks and organizations, to mobilize their expertise and existing mechanisms and focus on the thematic aspects of the Agenda. In paragraph 21 of the 2030 Agenda, Member States acknowledged that regional and subregional frameworks could facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level.

48. In paragraph 42 of the 2030 Agenda, Member States reaffirmed the importance of supporting the new development framework, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and paragraph 8 of the Action Agenda they reaffirmed the importance of supporting the new development framework, the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Since the adoption of the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa has been collaborating with the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the regional economic communities and the Department of Public Information in advocating and mobilizing international support for Agenda 2063 and in promoting its synergies and complementarities with the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will leverage the work of interagency consultative groups in ensuring effective implementation of the three programmes of actions, namely, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, and the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

49. The regional commissions are in a position to help countries to realize the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. They help to generate new thinking and policy advocacy and provide a bridge between the global and national levels. The regional commissions, in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD and other entities, can contribute substantively to national implementation, working with resident coordinators and United Nations country teams in the following areas:

(a) Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into national and subnational development planning and fiscal frameworks;

(b) Promoting policy coherence, consistency and coordination;

(c) Enhancing data and the statistical capacities of Member States with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(d) Identifying and promoting alternative and innovative sources of financing for development;

(e) Leveraging science, technology and innovation in support of the 2030 Agenda;

(f) Tapping South-South and regional and interregional partnerships;

(g) Translating regional models into global public goods.

50. In addition to organizing regional forums on sustainable development, the regional commissions are also organizing multi-stakeholder regional meetings on financing for development.

51. The regional commissions are working in concert with the resident coordinators and United Nations country teams in assisting with mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in the national development policies of Member States. Policy coherence at the regional level is overseen by regional coordination mechanisms.

52. Other departments and offices of the Secretariat are also supporting the two Agendas regionally, focusing, for example, on combating organized crime, combating illicit flows of weapons and illegal wildlife trafficking and managing joint water resources and cross-jurisdictional metropolitan expansion.[2]

53. In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in Quito in October 2016, the General

[2] Regional collaboration and coordination among United Nations system entities in Africa, through the Inter-departmental Task Force on African Affairs, increasingly involves key regional actors, including the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Peer Review Mechanism, the regional economic communities and the Economic Commission for Africa, in particular with regard to the implementation of Agenda 2063; the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Union of South American Nations, the Central American Integration System, the Caribbean Community, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Andean Development Corporation in Latin America and the Caribbean; the Asian Development Bank in Asia; the League of Arab States and the Islamic Development Bank in the Arab region; and the European Commission and the Organization for European Economic Cooperation in Europe. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs contributes to combating the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons through the work of its regional centres in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific.

Assembly, in paragraph 20 of its resolution 70/210, encouraged Member States to provide for the coordinated development and financing of urban settlements and to fully harness the potential contribution of sustainable urbanization to sustainable development. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) provides substantive and technical support to Governments at all levels with regard to initiating policies, plans and programmes that promote inclusive, integrated sustainable cities and human settlements.

54. The Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction is engaging with subregional organizations to support intergovernmental regional organizations that share knowledge, develop regional disaster risk reduction strategies, address transboundary risks and create enabling environments for disaster risk reduction mainstreaming at the national level.

Catalysing new partnerships and improving the effectiveness and accountability of existing partnerships at all levels

55. Member States recognized, in paragraph 60 of the 2030 Agenda, that the Goals and targets set out in the Agenda could not be achieved without a revitalized and enhanced Global Partnership, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors. The United Nations can assist Member States with building and expanding partnerships to support enabling environments where no person or country is left behind. This includes advancing constructive international and regional dialogue and deliberations on trade, tax matters, debt issues, investment governance and private sector development. It involves deeper linkages between the Secretariat and the specialized agencies and the major institutional stakeholders of the financing for development follow-up process (Addis Ababa Action Agenda, paras. 130, 132 and 133). This includes a strengthened partnership between the United Nations and the World Bank, which reflects the need for economic and security actors to work effectively together.

56. Member States have acknowledged that special attention should be given to the most vulnerable countries, including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, and countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries (Addis Ababa Action Agenda, para. 8; and 2030 Agenda, para. 22). The Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Commission, which it supports, will expand efforts to bring different parts of the United Nations system together and reduce fragmentation through joint strategies to enable peaceful societies. The Peacebuilding Fund has a reliable track record with regard to enhancing coherence across pillars and establishing new strategic partnerships with the international financial institutions and regional and subregional organizations. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will work with humanitarian and development partners towards reducing risks, vulnerability and humanitarian needs in these contexts. The Office of the High Representative for the Least developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will promote solutions for resilience and sustainable development in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, making use of new activities to mobilize all stakeholders. In cooperation with Interdepartmental Task Force on African Affairs, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa will organize related high-level dialogues and expert-level advocacy events in cooperation with

the African Union, ECA and the Department of Public Information to mobilize support and strengthen the coherence and coordination of United Nations efforts in this regard. UN-Habitat is working with national and subnational governments, community groups and other partners on slum upgrading and security of tenure to improve the conditions of the nearly 1 billion people now living in informal settlements in developing nations and fragile States.

57. In paragraph 67 of the 2030 Agenda, Member States stated that private business activity, investment and innovation were recognized to be major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation. UNCTAD is using its enterprise development work and the convening power of its World Investment Forum to make sure that investment is scaled up to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Increasingly, private sector actors will be engaged in shifting the economy towards a low-carbon growth path, such as through the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative. Through UNEP) Finance Initiative, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) works with over 200 partners from the banking, insurance and institutional investor sectors to align financial systems with the low-carbon, climate-resilient and green economy; and to mobilize the private finances necessary to effect the transition to a sustainable economy. OHCHR aims to provide effective policy advice and capacity-building to States to ensure that private sector engagement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is aligned with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. UNODC promotes transparency and the prevention of corruption in the private sector, in partnership with the United Nations Global Compact. Multi-stakeholder partnerships between the United Nations system and non-State actors are being promoted to enhance cooperation and dialogue, as well as to inject the Sustainable Development Goals into the corporate plans of private business.

58. In line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in which Member States acknowledged, inter alia, that expenditures and investments in sustainable development were being devolved to the subnational level, which often lacked adequate technical and technological capacity, financing and support (paras. 34 and 48), UN-Habitat is contributing policy guidance to subnational governments on sustainable finance, revenue enhancement, creditworthiness and land value financing, including through its partnership with the United Nations Advisory Committee on Local Authorities. UN-Habitat is partnering with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Capital Development Fund and others in least developed countries to advise municipalities on creating local investment vehicles and strengthening technical capacity. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative will also continue to be a useful framework (Addis Ababa Action Agenda, para. 49).

59. Consideration could be given to expanding the role of the annual Partnerships Forum of the Economic and Social Council, supported by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It has the potential to serve as an intergovernmental platform for the exchange of experiences about multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the 2030 Agenda. The high-level political forum on sustainable development will also conduct reviews of partnerships, notably those that volunteered to report on their contribution to its implementation.

Supporting a favourable international enabling environment through intergovernmental processes

60. The follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda requires a wide array of intergovernmental processes, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development goals and the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development. The Secretariat is adapting support to intergovernmental processes, data and statistics, analytical work and capacity-building to the requirements of the new development agenda. The overarching objective of this effort is to ensure that the Secretariat is focused on effectively integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development into its four functional areas.

61. The Secretariat will support intergovernmental bodies as they contribute to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as well as the forum on financing for development, the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and a multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, while continuing to strengthen the Development Cooperation Forum of the Council.

62. The report of the Secretary-General on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level (A/70/684) provides a vision and proposals on how the overall review architecture could work.

63. In accordance with paragraph 83 of the 2030 Agenda, follow-up and review at the high-level political forum on sustainable development will be informed by an annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals, to be prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the United Nations system. The regional Forums on sustainable development will convey the regional voice on the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, providing a clear link with the high-level political forum, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

64. In addition, the high-level political forum on sustainable development will be informed by the *Global Sustainable Development Report*, which will strengthen the science-policy interface and provide a strong evidence-based instrument to support policymakers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development.

65. In accordance with paragraph 133 of the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action, the Secretary-General convened an inter-agency task force to support the deliberations of the financing for development forum and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The task force will produce a data-driven analytical annual report, supported by an online appendix. The major institutional stakeholders of the financing for development process (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization, UNCTAD and UNDP) are taking a central role, in coordination with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

66. Support to other intergovernmental mechanisms will need to be scaled up in order to ensure the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into the work of these mechanisms and encourage them to contribute to the thematic reviews of the Goals and cross-cutting issues at the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Such mechanisms include the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on

the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Human Rights Council.

67. The Secretariat supports countries and subnational authorities as they integrate into the global economy, aligning their national development plans with the opportunities arising from increased globalization of trade, finance, technology and investment.

68. The United Nations system supports countries as they integrate policy on climate change within national and subnational plans for sustainable development. In addition, the issues of climate change and climate finance are integral to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Gender perspectives are being integrated within climate action through support for women's entrepreneurship in sustainable energy and women's work in climate resilient agriculture. UN-Women is providing further support to the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to help them to integrate gender perspectives into their work, including with regard to women's participation in the bodies of the Convention. In response to the commitment to human rights in climate action, agreed at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, OHCHR will aim, subject to the availability of additional resources, to step up its engagement with the parties and other relevant actors to promote ambitious rights-based climate action. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs will support the development of climate-related statistics and is integrating climate change into policy dialogue in the intergovernmental bodies it supports. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa will redouble its advocacy and awareness-raising efforts related to Africa's climate change priorities, with particular emphasis on adaptation, mitigation, technology development and transfer, and financing. UN-Habitat will continue to support Governments, including in least developed countries, to formulate and implement national sustainable urban development policies and climate action plans in order to provide a coherent policy foundation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

69. The regional commissions and their subsidiary organs are intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations in their respective regions. In addition to providing regional perspectives to global follow-up and reviews, it is expected that they will also translate global mandates related to the 2030 Agenda into action at the regional and country levels. It is expected that the regional commissions will initiate normative and analytical work that can be used at the global, regional and country-levels in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in order to promote actionable proposals on means of implementation.

Supporting follow-up and review

70. In paragraph 129 of Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Member States called upon the United Nations system, in consultation with the international financial institutions, to develop transparent measurements of progress on sustainable development that go beyond per capita income, building on existing initiatives as appropriate. In paragraphs 74 and 81 of the 2030 Agenda, Member States indicated that follow-up and review processes at all levels would benefit from the active support of the United Nations system and encouraged the regional commissions to continue to support Member States in regional engagement.

71. Coordination in the development of the global indicator framework is being facilitated through the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, which was established by the Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session, in 2015 and comprises Member States, as well as representatives of regional and international agencies acting as observers. Coordination also takes place at different levels throughout the United Nations system and beyond. In follow-up to its having presented a global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda as a starting point for discussion at its forty-seventh session, it is expected that the Commission will be mandated to undertake further methodological development and refinement of the indicators.

72. The resources previously dedicated to the collection of Millennium Development Goals indicators will be reprogrammed towards work on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. Nonetheless, the requirements of the 2030 Agenda go significantly beyond the existing capacity to address them. Relevant Secretariat entities will support the work on data and the strengthening of national capacities. Many Secretariat entities are already working with national statistical offices to undertake methodological work on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and will be providing data for regional reviews. Review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda will also require broadened and more integrated policy analysis in support of national and global processes.

Undertaking public advocacy for the Sustainable Development Goals

73. In order to help to increase overall awareness and understanding of the 2030 Agenda by the general public and decision makers, the Department of Public Information is aligning its communication products and services and multilingual coverage to present an integrated narrative on this multifaceted Agenda. The Department is leading efforts on a framework for communication planning at the global and local levels through the design of communication campaigns, shared branding and consistent messaging. The Department is also strengthening its coordination mechanisms to ensure system-wide alignment and collaboration through its 63 field offices (United Nations information centres) and by convening the inter-agency United Nations Communications Group and its task forces on the Sustainable Development Goals and on climate change, and the Sustainable Development Goals strategy hub, which engages United Nations and civil society partners in efforts to disseminate information about the new Agenda. The Department is also working with a diverse audience, including students and members of academia, representative of non-governmental organizations, celebrity advocates and creative partners, in outreach activities regarding the 2030 Agenda and its implementation. The Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth is advocating for investments in youth development and engagement, and the activities are showcased and promoted at the annual Economic and Social Council Youth Forum, which is supported by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of the Secretary-General's Youth Envoy and the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development.

74. In order to help to increase the overall awareness and understanding by the wider public and decision makers of the impact of the work of the United Nations system with regard to the 2030 Agenda, the Department of Economic and Social

Affairs is coordinating the activities the Secretary-General's advocates on the Sustainable Development Goals. The Sustainable Development Goals action campaign builds and expands on the success of the Campaign for the Millennium Development Goals. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, which has a global advocacy mandate to support the most vulnerable countries, will carry out additional advocacy efforts. The Perception Change Project of the United Nations Office at Geneva has mapped the expertise of 250 international organizations and partners, in response to the clear need to identify their different capabilities, synergies and complementarities and to detect overlaps.

V. Financial implications

75. The budgetary implications of the proposed strengthened role and areas of activity for the Secretariat described in section IV are presented in tables 1, 2 and 3 below. The budgetary implications are in addition to the figures presented in the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (A/70/589). The budgetary implications also include a proposed allocation of $5 million for the Development Account.

76. In preparing the figures, and in the light of new resources being scarce, offices and departments of the Secretariat have made every effort to review and adapt their work plans and have reprioritized their activities and resources for delivering support to assist in the implementation of the two Agendas while meeting the demands of all existing mandates. Yet, given the transformative nature of the new Agendas, the Secretary-General proposes that the Secretariat strengthen its support to Member States and go beyond reprioritizing activities and resources.

Table 1

Budgetary implications by budget section, and posts and non-post items for the bienniums 2016-2017 and 2018-2019

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Budget section		Number of temporary posts[a]	Implications in 2016-2017			Implications in 2018-2019		
			Posts	Non-post	Total	Posts	Non-post	Total
1.	Overall policymaking, direction and coordination (UNOG-DG)	1	168.8	20.9	189.7	307.0	8.6	315.6
2.	General Assembly affairs and conference services	2	393.1	200.3	593.4	715.0	122.0	837.0
3.	Political affairs (PBSO)	1	230.3	5.4	235.7	418.9	5.9	424.8
4.	Disarmament	–	–	345.0	345.0	–	345.0	345.0
8.	Legal affairs	–	–	147.4	147.4	–	147.4	147.4
9.	Economic and social affairs	9	1 625.6	546.1	2 171.7	2 962.4	554.3	3 508.5
10.	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	3	688.2	368.1	1 056.3	1 252.0	369.7	1 619.1
11.	United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (OSAA)	–	–	375.0	375.0	–	375.0	375.0
12.	Trade and development	4	815.2	128.0	943.2	1 482.6	128.0	1 610.6
14.	Environment	3	480.3	1 296.0	1 776.3	873.6	1 296.0	2 169.6
15.	Human settlements	3	510.8	2 485.8	2 996.6	929.2	2 485.8	3 415.0
16.	International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice	3	473.4	438.4	911.8	861.0	438.4	1 299.4
17.	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	8	1 606.9	621.0	2 227.9	2 923.2	621.0	3 544.2
18	Economic and social development in Africa	2	189.9	3 427.0	3 616.9	347.4	3 427.0	3 774.4
19.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	4	623.2	1 560.0	2 183.2	1 133.6	1 560.0	2 693.6
20.	Economic development in Europe	3	610.8	261.3	872.1	1 111.0	261.3	1 372.3
21.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	3	391.3	1 379.2	1 770.5	711.6	1 379.2	2 090.8
22.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	4	564.8	2 007.4	2 572.2	1 031.9	2 007.4	3 039.3
24.	Human rights	7	1 283.3	1 013.6	2 296.9	2 341.1	1 013.6	3 354.7
27.	Humanitarian assistance (UNISDR)	2	408.8	771.2	1 180.0	743.2	771.2	1 514.4
29F	United Nations Office at Geneva	–	–	24.2	24.2	–	19.9	19.9

Budget section	Number of temporary posts[a]	Implications in 2016-2017			Implications in 2018-2019		
		Posts	Non-post	Total	Posts	Non-post	Total
35. Development account	–	–	5 000.0	5 000.0	–	5 000.0	5 000.0
36. Staff assessment	–	2 355.6	–	2 355.6	4 289.8	–	4 289.8
Total (gross)	**62**	**13 420.3**	**22 421.3**	**35 841.6**	**24 434.5**	**22 336.7**	**46 771.2**
Total (net of staff assessment)	**62**	**11 064.7**	**22 421.3**	**33 486.0**	**20 144.7**	**22 336.7**	**42 481.4**

Abbreviations: UNOG-DG, United Nations Office at Geneva, Office of the Director-General; PBSO, Peacebuilding Support Office; OSAA, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa; UNISDR, Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

[a] Until 2030, in line with the duration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Similar arrangement made for temporary posts established by the General Assembly in the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

Table 2
Distribution of temporary posts by budget section and grade

Budget section		Number of temporary posts												
		Professional and higher categories						General Service and related categories			Other categories			
		D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Subtotal	Principal level	Other level	Subtotal	National Officer	Local level	Subtotal	Total
1.	Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
2.	General Assembly affairs and conference services	–	1	–	1	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
3.	Political affairs	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
9.	Economic and social affairs	–	2	3	3	–	8	–	1	1	–	–	–	9
10.	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	1	1	1	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
12.	Trade and development	–	1	2	1	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	4
14.	Environment	–		3	–	–	3	–	–		–	–	–	3
15.	Human settlements	–	2	–	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
16.	International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice	–		3	–	–	3	–	–		–	–	–	3
17.	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	–	3	3	2	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	8
18.	Economic and social development in Africa	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	1	2
19.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	–	–	3	1	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	4
20.	Economic development in Europe	–	1	1	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
21.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	–	–	1	2	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
22.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	–	–	1	2	–	3	–	–	–	–	1	1	4
24.	Human rights	–	–	4	2	–	6	–	1	1	–	–	–	7
27.	Humanitarian assistance	–	–	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
	Total	**1**	**12**	**27**	**18**	**–**	**58**	**–**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**62**

Table 3

Distribution of non-post object of expenditures by budget section for the biennium 2016-2017

Budget section		*Other staff costs*	*Consultants*	*Experts*	*Travel of representatives*	*Travel of staff*	*Contractual services*	*General operating expenses*	*Supplies and materials*	*Furniture and equipment*	*Grants and contributions*	*Total*
1.	Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	–	–	–	–	–	19.2	0.4	0.3	1.0	–	20.9
2.	General Assembly affairs and conference services	189.5	–	–	–	–	5.4	1.4	1.0	3.0	–	200.3
3.	Political affairs	–	–	–	–	–	2.7	0.7	0.5	1.5	–	5.4
4.	Disarmament	–	35.0	–	–	60.0	65.0	–	–	–	185.0	345.0
8.	Legal affairs	–	44.4	–	–	20.0	–	–	–	–	83.0	147.4
9.	Economic and social affairs	–	268.0	233.0	–	–	24.3	5.9	4.5	10.4	–	546.1
10.	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	–	–	181.5	–	65.4	113.1	2.1	1.5	4.5	–	368.1
11.	United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development	–	–	375.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	375.0
12.	Trade and development	–	–	–	–	128.0	–	–	–	–	–	128.0
14.	Environment	–	1 056.0	–	–	240.0	–	–	–	–	–	1 296.0
15.	Human settlements	–	508.3	1 678.0	–	299.5	–	–	–	–	–	2 485.8
16.	International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice	–	–	300.0	–	138.4	–	–	–	–	–	438.4
17.	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	–	40.0	185.0	–	125.0	38.8	228.8	–	3.4	–	621.0
18.	Economic and social development in Africa	170.0	1 016.2	1 547.1	–	242.3	441.4	–	–	10.0	–	3 427.0
19.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	–	180.0	1 235.6	–	91.4	53.0	–	–	–	–	1 560.0
20.	Economic development in Europe	–	–	197.7	–	51.6	–	–	3.0	9.0	–	261.3
21.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	141.7	553.5	249.0	–	290.0	114.0	12.0	19.0	–	–	1 379.2
22.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	–	804.3	859.3	–	181.4	162.4	–	–	–	–	2 007.4
24.	Human rights	–	84.3	–	721.8	67.5	140.0	–	–	–	–	1 013.6
27.	Humanitarian assistance	–	–	300.0	–	240.0	200.0	31.2	–	–	–	771.2
29F	United Nations Office at Geneva	–	–	–	–	–	8.3	13.1	–	2.8	–	24.2
35.	Development account	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5 000.0	5 000.0
	Total	**501.2**	**4 590.0**	**7 341.2**	**721.8**	**2 240.5**	**1 387.6**	**295.6**	**29.8**	**45.6**	**5 268.0**	**22 421.3**

VI. Conclusion and action requested of the General Assembly

77. **The present report was prepared following consultations with the Heads of departments and offices in the Secretariat and of the entities of the United Nations system. The Secretary-General considers that the proposed strengthened roles and areas of activity of the departments and offices of the Secretariat, as described in section IV above, reflect what is required for providing effective and efficient support to Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. The Secretary-General requests that the General Assembly approve the proposals.**

78. **In that regard, should the General Assembly agree with the proposed strengthened roles and areas of activity for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, additional resource requirements in the amount of $33,486,000 net of staff assessment for the biennium 2016-2017 would arise, including the establishment of 62 temporary posts, as reflected in tables 1, 2 and 3 above, which would require the approval of the Assembly. The related requirements for the forthcoming bienniums, starting with the biennium 2018-2019, would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budgets for the respective bienniums.**

United Nations A/70/795

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 March 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 79 (a)
Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 18 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith Viet Nam's diplomatic note (see annex) regarding the letter dated 28 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (A/70/702) and its annex.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 79 (a).

(*Signed*) **Nguyen** Phuong Nga
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations

16-04804 (E) 300316

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Annex to the letter dated 18 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the letter dated 28 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/70/702) and its annex, has the honour to state Viet Nam's position as follows:

With regard to the disputes between Viet Nam and China over Hoang Sa (Paracel) Archipelago and Truong Sa (Spratly) Archipelago and related issues in the East Sea (South China Sea), Viet Nam's consistent and irreversible position has been expressly stated in the note verbale dated 5 February 2016 from the Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations. Viet Nam has ample legal basis and historical evidence to affirm its indisputable sovereignty over Hoang Sa Archipelago and Truong Sa Archipelago. Successive Vietnamese Governments have peacefully and continuously exercised and defended Viet Nam's sovereignty over the two archipelagos since at least the seventeenth century. In 1974 and 1988 respectively, China used force to illegally occupy Hoang Sa Archipelago of Viet Nam and some features of Truong Sa Archipelago of Viet Nam. Such illegal acts have blatantly violated the Charter of the United Nations and seriously infringed upon the territorial integrity of Viet Nam. For that reason, Viet Nam completely rejects the position of China on the question of Viet Nam's sovereignty over Hoang Sa Archipelago and Truong Sa Archipelago as stated in the above-mentioned letter dated 28 January 2016 and its annex.

As a peace- and justice-loving nation, over the past years, Viet Nam has repeatedly requested China to settle all the disputes and differences in the East Sea through peaceful means in accordance with international law. China not only rejected Viet Nam's proposal to negotiate the issue of the sovereignty over Hoang Sa Archipelago but also unreasonably and unjustifiably refused to accept the existence of the undeniable disputes over Hoang Sa Archipelago of Viet Nam, which was explicitly acknowledged by China's High-level Leader in 1975. In addition, since the start of this year, China has conducted a series of activities to expedite its militarization process in the South China Sea, thus exacerbating the existing tensions and threatening regional peace and stability. For example, China conducted test flights to the airfield illegally built on Đá Chữ Thập (Fiery Cross Reef) of Truong Sa Archipelago, constructed helicopter bases on Quang Hòa (Duncan) Island of Hoang Sa Archipelago, deployed HQ-9 surface-to-air missile batteries and J-11 Flanker fighters on Phú Lâm (Woody) Island of Hoang Sa Archipelago and installed radar facilities on Châu Viên (Cuarteron) Reef of Truong Sa Archipelago.

Viet Nam completely rejects China's assertion that "the Vietnamese side ... refused to fulfil its obligations ... and obstructed China's test flights". This assertion of China is groundless and unjustifiable. The fact was that, on 30 December 2015, the representative from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Viet Nam met with the representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, and verbally conveyed that the Chinese Civil Aviation authorities would use Cessna 680 aircraft to conduct some test flights from Sanya Phoenix Airport, Hainan Island, to

the airfield illegally built on Đá Chữ Thập of Viet Nam's Truong Sa Archipelago. In response to China's verbal communication of 30 December 2015, Viet Nam's representative immediately expressed deep concern, regarded the flights conducted by such civil aircraft to Đá Chữ Thập as a violation of Viet Nam's sovereignty over Truong Sa and therefore requested China not to conduct the flights. With regard to China's assertion that China's civil aviation authorities had previously, on 28 December 2015, notified Viet Nam's civil aviation authorities about the flights, Viet Nam declares that, having examined 19,000 aeronautical messages on that day, Viet Nam's civil aviation authorities confirmed that no information whatsoever was received from China about the flights, and China has not so far provided any compelling evidence or proof to the contrary.

Despite Viet Nam's concern and objection, China deliberately conducted test flights by civil aircraft to Đá Chữ Thập that crossed high-density air traffic service routes in the Ho Chi Minh flight information region, without any flight plans filed at the appropriate air traffic service units or any radio contacts with the Ho Chi Minh area control centre in accordance with relevant regulations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The civil aviation operations of China violated applicable international rules and regulations in respect of aviation safety and security, in particular as they directly endangered civil aviation operations in the Ho Chi Minh flight information region. This civil aviation operation of China has been brought by Viet Nam to the attention of ICAO and the international civil aviation community.

Viet Nam always adheres to and fulfils its rights and obligations and vehemently condemns and firmly opposes any unilateral action affecting regional peace, security and stability. At the same time, Viet Nam strongly supports efforts to strengthen cooperation, reduce tensions and resolve disputes by peaceful means in accordance with international law. Viet Nam hopes that China honours its international commitments, such as the prohibition of the use or threat of use of force and the peaceful settlement of international disputes, and makes "its actions match its words". Viet Nam also hopes that China will make a practical contribution to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region and to the minimization of the risks of potential conflict in the East Sea; together with Viet Nam and other countries, strictly complies with the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea; and actively participates in substantive negotiations for an early conclusion of the code of conduct. Once again, Viet Nam reaffirms its consistent position on settling all disputes and differences with China relating to the East Sea, including the above-mentioned actions by China, through negotiations or any other peaceful means, as provided under applicable international legal instruments.

Annex to the letter dated 18 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Joint Declaration of Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the holy Spirit be with all of you" (2 *Cor* 13:13).

1. By God the Father's will, from which all gifts come, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the help of the Holy Spirit Consolator, we, Pope Francis and Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, have met today in Havana. We give thanks to God, glorified in the Trinity, for this meeting, the first in history.

It is with joy that we have met like brothers in the Christian faith who encounter one another "to speak face to face" (2 *Jn* 12), from heart to heart, to discuss the mutual relations between the Churches, the crucial problems of our faithful, and the outlook for the progress of human civilization.

2. Our fraternal meeting has taken place in Cuba, at the crossroads of North and South, East and West. It is from this island, the symbol of the hopes of the "New World" and the dramatic events of the history of the twentieth century, that we address our words to all the peoples of Latin America and of the other continents.

It is a source of joy that the Christian faith is growing here in a dynamic way. The powerful religious potential of Latin America, its centuries-old Christian tradition, grounded in the personal experience of millions of people, are the pledge of a great future for this region.

3. By meeting far from the longstanding disputes of the "Old World", we experience with a particular sense of urgency the need for the shared labour of Catholics and Orthodox, who are called, *with gentleness and respect, to give an explanation to the world of the hope in us* (cf. 1 *Pet* 3:15).

4. We thank God for the gifts received from the coming into the world of His only Son. We share the same spiritual Tradition of the first millennium of Christianity. The witnesses of this Tradition are the Most Holy Mother of God, the Virgin Mary, and the saints we venerate. Among them are innumerable martyrs who have given witness to their faithfulness to Christ and have become the "seed of Christians".

5. Notwithstanding this shared Tradition of the first ten centuries, for nearly one thousand years Catholics and Orthodox have been deprived of communion in the Eucharist. We have been divided by wounds caused by old and recent conflicts, by differences inherited from our ancestors, in the understanding and expression of our faith in God, one in three Persons — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are pained by the loss of unity, the outcome of human weakness and of sin, which has occurred despite the priestly prayer of Christ the Saviour: "So that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you ... so that they may be one, as we are one" (*Jn* 17:21).

6. Mindful of the persistence of many obstacles, it is our hope that our meeting may contribute to the re-establishment of this unity willed by God, for which Christ prayed. May our meeting inspire Christians throughout the world to pray to the Lord with renewed fervour for the full unity of all His disciples. In a world which yearns not only for our words but also for tangible gestures, may this meeting be a sign of hope for all people of goodwill!

7. In our determination to undertake all that is necessary to overcome the historical divergences we have inherited, we wish to combine our efforts to give witness to the Gospel of Christ and to the shared heritage of the Church of the first millennium, responding together to the challenges of the contemporary world. Orthodox and Catholics must learn to give unanimously witness in those spheres in which this is possible and necessary. Human civilization has entered into a period of epochal change. Our Christian conscience and our pastoral responsibility compel us not to remain passive in the face of challenges requiring a shared response.

8. Our gaze must firstly turn to those regions of the world where Christians are victims of persecution. In many countries of the Middle East and North Africa whole families, villages and cities of our brothers and sisters in Christ are being completely exterminated. Their churches are being barbarously ravaged and looted, their sacred objects profaned, their monuments destroyed. It is with pain that we call to mind the situation in Syria, Iraq and other countries of the Middle East, and the massive exodus of Christians from the land in which our faith was first disseminated and in which they have lived since the time of the Apostles, together with other religious communities.

9. We call upon the international community to act urgently in order to prevent the further expulsion of Christians from the Middle East. In raising our voice in defence of persecuted Christians, we wish to express our compassion for the suffering experienced by the faithful of other religious traditions who have also become victims of civil war, chaos and terrorist violence.

10. Thousands of victims have already been claimed in the violence in Syria and Iraq, which has left many other millions without a home or means of sustenance. We urge the international community to seek an end to the violence and terrorism and, at the same time, to contribute through dialogue to a swift return to civil peace. Large-scale humanitarian aid must be assured to the afflicted populations and to the many refugees seeking safety in neighbouring lands.

We call upon all those whose influence can be brought to bear upon the destiny of those kidnapped, including the Metropolitans of Aleppo, Paul and John Ibrahim, who were taken in April 2013, to make every effort to ensure their prompt liberation.

11. We lift our prayers to Christ, the Saviour of the world, asking for the return of peace in the Middle East, "the fruit of justice" (*Is* 32:17), so that fraternal co-existence among the various populations, Churches and religions may be strengthened, enabling refugees to return to their homes, wounds to be healed, and the souls of the slain innocent to rest in peace.

We address, in a fervent appeal, all the parts that may be involved in the conflicts to demonstrate good will and to take part in the negotiating table. At the same time, the international community must undertake every possible effort to end terrorism through common, joint and coordinated action. We call on all the countries involved

in the struggle against terrorism to responsible and prudent action. We exhort all Christians and all believers of God to pray fervently to the providential Creator of the world to protect His creation from destruction and not permit a new world war. In order to ensure a solid and enduring peace, specific efforts must be undertaken to rediscover the common values uniting us, based on the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

12. We bow before the martyrdom of those who, at the cost of their own lives, have given witness to the truth of the Gospel, preferring death to the denial of Christ. We believe that these martyrs of our times, who belong to various Churches but who are united by their shared suffering, are a pledge of the unity of Christians. It is to you who suffer for Christ's sake that the word of the Apostle is directed: "Beloved ... rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly" (1 *Pet* 4:12-13).

13. Interreligious dialogue is indispensable in our disturbing times. Differences in the understanding of religious truths must not impede people of different faiths to live in peace and harmony. In our current context, religious leaders have the particular responsibility to educate their faithful in a spirit which is respectful of the convictions of those belonging to other religious traditions. Attempts to justify criminal acts with religious slogans are altogether unacceptable. No crime may be committed in God's name, "since God is not the God of disorder but of peace" (1 *Cor* 14:33).

14. In affirming the foremost value of religious freedom, we give thanks to God for the current unprecedented renewal of the Christian faith in Russia, as well as in many other countries of Eastern Europe, formerly dominated for decades by atheist regimes. Today, the chains of militant atheism have been broken and in many places Christians can now freely confess their faith. Thousands of new churches have been built over the last quarter of a century, as well as hundreds of monasteries and theological institutions. Christian communities undertake notable works in the fields of charitable aid and social development, providing diversified forms of assistance to the needy. Orthodox and Catholics often work side by side. Giving witness to the values of the Gospel they attest to the existence of the shared spiritual foundations of human co-existence.

15. At the same time, we are concerned about the situation in many countries in which Christians are increasingly confronted by restrictions to religious freedom, to the right to witness to one's convictions and to live in conformity with them. In particular, we observe that the transformation of some countries into secularized societies, estranged from all reference to God and to His truth, constitutes a grave threat to religious freedom. It is a source of concern for us that there is a current curtailment of the rights of Christians, if not their outright discrimination, when certain political forces, guided by an often very aggressive secularist ideology, seek to relegate them to the margins of public life.

16. The process of European integration, which began after centuries of blood-soaked conflicts, was welcomed by many with hope, as a guarantee of peace and security. Nonetheless, we invite vigilance against an integration that is devoid of respect for religious identities. While remaining open to the contribution of other religions to our civilization, it is our conviction that Europe must remain faithful to its Christian roots. We call upon Christians of Eastern and Western Europe to unite

in their shared witness to Christ and the Gospel, so that Europe may preserve its soul, shaped by two thousand years of Christian tradition.

17. Our gaze is also directed to those facing serious difficulties, who live in extreme need and poverty while the material wealth of humanity increases. We cannot remain indifferent to the destinies of millions of migrants and refugees knocking on the doors of wealthy nations. The unrelenting consumerism of some more developed countries is gradually depleting the resources of our planet. The growing inequality in the distribution of material goods increases the feeling of the injustice of the international order that has emerged.

18. The Christian churches are called to defend the demands of justice, the respect for peoples' traditions, and an authentic solidarity towards all those who suffer. We Christians cannot forget that "God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, that no human being might boast before God" (1 *Cor* 1:27-29).

19. The family is the natural centre of human life and society. We are concerned about the crisis in the family in many countries. Orthodox and Catholics share the same conception of the family, and are called to witness that it is a path of holiness, testifying to the faithfulness of the spouses in their mutual interaction, to their openness to the procreation and rearing of their children, to solidarity between the generations and to respect for the weakest.

20. The family is based on marriage, an act of freely given and faithful love between a man and a woman. It is love that seals their union and teaches them to accept one another as a gift. Marriage is a school of love and faithfulness. We regret that other forms of cohabitation have been placed on the same level as this union, while the concept, consecrated in the biblical tradition, of paternity and maternity as the distinct vocation of man and woman in marriage is being banished from the public conscience.

21. We call on all to respect the inalienable right to life. Millions are denied the very right to be born into the world. The *blood* of the unborn *cries out to God* (cf. *Gen* 4:10).

The emergence of so-called euthanasia leads elderly people and the disabled begin to feel that they are a burden on their families and on society in general.

We are also concerned about the development of biomedical reproduction technology, as the manipulation of human life represents an attack on the foundations of human existence, created in the image of God. We believe that it is our duty to recall the immutability of Christian moral principles, based on respect for the dignity of the individual called into being according to the Creator's plan.

22. Today, in a particular way, we address young Christians. You, young people, have the task of *not hiding your talent in the ground* (cf. *Mt* 25:25), but of using all the abilities God has given you to confirm Christ's truth in the world, incarnating in your own lives the evangelical commandments of the love of God and of one's neighbour. Do not be afraid of going against the current, defending God's truth, to which contemporary secular norms are often far from conforming.

23. God loves each of you and expects you to be His disciples and apostles. Be the *light of the world* so that those around you *may see your good deeds and glorify*

your heavenly Father (cf. *Mt* 5:14, 16). Raise your children in the Christian faith, transmitting to them the pearl of great price that is the faith (cf. *Mt* 13:46) you have received from your parents and forbears. Remember that "you have been purchased at a great price" (1 *Cor* 6:20), at the cost of the death on the cross of the Man-God Jesus Christ.

24. Orthodox and Catholics are united not only by the shared Tradition of the Church of the first millennium, but also by the mission to preach the Gospel of Christ in the world today. This mission entails mutual respect for members of the Christian communities and excludes any form of proselytism.

We are not competitors but brothers, and this concept must guide all our mutual actions as well as those directed to the outside world. We urge Catholics and Orthodox in all countries to learn to live together in peace and love, and to be "in harmony with one another" (*Rm* 15:5). Consequently, it cannot be accepted that disloyal means be used to incite believers to pass from one Church to another, denying them their religious freedom and their traditions. We are called upon to put into practice the precept of the apostle Paul: "Thus I aspire to proclaim the gospel not where Christ has already been named, so that I do not build on another's foundation" (*Rm* 15:20).

25. It is our hope that our meeting may also contribute to reconciliation wherever tensions exist between Greek Catholics and Orthodox. It is today clear that the past method of "uniatism", understood as the union of one community to the other, separating it from its Church, is not the way to re-establish unity. Nonetheless, the ecclesial communities which emerged in these historical circumstances have the right to exist and to undertake all that is necessary to meet the spiritual needs of their faithful, while seeking to live in peace with their neighbours. Orthodox and Greek Catholics are in need of reconciliation and of mutually acceptable forms of co-existence.

26. We deplore the hostility in Ukraine that has already caused many victims, inflicted innumerable wounds on peaceful inhabitants and thrown society into a deep economic and humanitarian crisis. We invite all the parts involved in the conflict to prudence, to social solidarity and to action aimed at constructing peace. We invite our Churches in Ukraine to work towards social harmony, to refrain from taking part in the confrontation, and to not support any further development of the conflict.

27. It is our hope that the schism between the Orthodox faithful in Ukraine may be overcome through existing canonical norms, that all the Orthodox Christians of Ukraine may live in peace and harmony, and that the Catholic communities in the country may contribute to this, in such a way that our Christian brotherhood may become increasingly evident.

28. In the contemporary world, which is both multiform yet united by a shared destiny, Catholics and Orthodox are called to work together fraternally in proclaiming the Good News of salvation, to testify together to the moral dignity and authentic freedom of the person, "so that the world may believe" (*Jn* 17:21). This world, in which the spiritual pillars of human existence are progressively disappearing, awaits from us a compelling Christian witness in all spheres of personal and social life. Much of the future of humanity will depend on our capacity to give shared witness to the Spirit of truth in these difficult times.

29. May our bold witness to God's truth and to the Good News of salvation be sustained by the Man-God Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, who strengthens us with the unfailing promise: "Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom" (*Lk* 12:32)!

Christ is the well-spring of joy and hope. Faith in Him transfigures human life, fills it with meaning. This is the conviction borne of the experience of all those to whom Peter refers in his words: "Once you were 'no people' but now you are God's people; you 'had not received mercy' but now you have received mercy" (1 *Pet* 2:10).

30. With grace-filled gratitude for the gift of mutual understanding manifested during our meeting, let us with hope turn to the Most Holy Mother of God, invoking her with the words of this ancient prayer: "We seek refuge under the protection of your mercy, Holy Mother of God". May the Blessed Virgin Mary, through her intercession, inspire fraternity in all those who venerate her, so that they may be reunited, in God's own time, in the peace and harmony of the one people of God, for the glory of the Most Holy and indivisible Trinity.

12 February 2016, Havana